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NEWS RELEASE

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WINNING MONEY IS ONLY HALF THE FUN

BISMARCK - Half the fun of winning a lottery prize is telling your family and friends. When Sheryll Ford from Bowman recently won \$10,000 playing the Lottery's Hot Lotto game, she and her husband told their youngest daughter first. "My daughter said, 'Now you can buy me a new car, mom.'" Ford said and laughed.

"Everyone has an idea about how to spend the money but I told them this is for mom and dad," she said. The Fords plan to finish paying for their remodeling and then maybe take a winter vacation. "We have eight grandchildren with another special one on the way and Christmas is coming. Who knows?" Ford said.

Sheryll Ford works at the Come-N-Go in Bowman where she purchased the winning ticket. On October 20 her numbers were drawn. But Ford didn't have to work the next day so it wasn't until the following Monday when she went to work that she learned a winning \$10,000 Hot Lotto ticket had been sold there.

"Everyone said, 'Did you check your tickets?', and I hadn't," Ford said. When a co-worker ran Ford's ticket through the lottery terminal, they all knew it was a winning ticket. "The machine didn't tell us how much. We had to check the winning numbers and figure it out ourselves," she said.

Ford didn't believe it at first and checked the ticket several times. Finally, she was convinced. After that, she told everyone who walked in the door, 'I won! I won!'

North Dakota has had 226,737 Powerball winners for a total of \$2,202,562 in prizes, 111,151 Hot Lotto winners for a total of \$435,090 in prizes, and 52,696 Wild Card 2 winners for a total of \$97,637.

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